post strikes, we do not mind. The railroad is different. A muzhik drives all the night to take his produce to the station—no train. The muzhik asks the gendarme, 'When will the train come?' And the gendarme knows the answer. 'Ask the strikers. They have stopped the trains. Wait till tomorrow!' The muzhik waits the whole day and tomorrow it's the same story." And he concluded, "Much harm came from the strike."

After the recess, the convention continued. The Mensheviks from Novgorod joined the meeting—a big, bearded agronomist, Zaloga, and a young clerk, Alexander. The afternoon session opened with a discussion of the relationship between professional unions and the S-D party. The teachers decided to organize a non-partisan professional union with an S-D cell within it. All the members of the convention would join both the union and the cell. Then came the last point of the agenda: What should the union do? Sokolov expressed the feelings of the meeting: "Our first task is not to seek advantages for ourselves but to promote the freedom and happiness of our motherland, Russia."

It was getting dark. Thomas lit a candle on the chairman's table. It gave a small circle of light, leaving the rest of the room in darkness. Expanses of shining snow could be seen through the windows.

Eugene spoke about the importance of revolutionary work by schoolteachers in the villages. Each teacher must be a crusader, a leader, the head of a village commando in the forthcoming national revolt! At my side a girl teacher whispered to another, "Look, isn't he like Archangel Mikhail on the icon?" After his speech the convention voted a resolution calling on all schoolteachers to start at once to organize revolutionary meetings in villages, and after a few cordial words the chairman declared the convention closed.

Thomas asked us if we were too tired for another meeting. We assured him that we felt wonderful after our day with the teachers. "Then I shall call a meeting in the school," he said. "Nobody has gone to bed in the village, everyone is waiting for something. . . . Lazar, will you tell the people that the teacher is inviting everybody to the school?"

"Everybody?" Lazar asked. "Women too?"

"Men and women!" Thomas confirmed. "Young and old! Even the old people who prefer the church to the school," he added teasingly.

"Don't worry," Lazar laughed. "The old won't lag behind the young." Through the window, we saw him talking with a group of peasants in front of the teacher's house and directing them toward the school.